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A CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF
THE HARRINGTON CREEK, SECTION 14 STUDY,
SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE - A NEGATIVE FINDING REPORT

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Memphis District

Jimmy D. McNeil
Staff Archeologist

October 1989

ABSTRACT

On 3 October 89, an intensive cultural resources survey was conducted by the Environmental Analysis Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District, Staff Archeologist, Mr. Jimmy McNeil.

The Harrington Creek erosion area is located approximately 700 feet (210 meters) northeast of the Raleigh LaGrange road and Harrington Creek Crossing (see Map 1). The area covers 4.8 acres.

Proposed work for the area includes grading of the creek bank to a stable angle, and placing rip-rap along and in portions of the creek.

No prehistoric, historic or architectural sites were discovered within the project right-of-way.

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Introduction

An intensive survey for cultural resources was conducted by Memphis District Archeologist, Mr. Jimmy McNeil on 3 October 1989, within the project right-of-way as directed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District. The study was performed as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190), Protection and Enhancement of Cultural Historic and Cultural Properties (36 CFR 800), and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 898-665).

Project Description

The Harrington Creek project is located in Shelby County, Tennessee. It is located approximately 700 feet (210 meters) northeast of the Raleigh LaGrange road and Harrington Creek Crossing in northeast Memphis (Map 1). The project will affect only the creek bank and land adjacent to it (Map 2). The creek banks are to be graded to a stable angle and then covered, at selected spots, with rip-rap. Land adjacent to the creek banks will be used for the deposition of excess materials.

Environmental Setting

The project area is located along a small portion of Harrington Creek, which is located in north Shelby county. The proposed impact area consists predominately of cleared lands composed of utility company right-of-ways for pipelines and overhead power lines.

Timber resources consist of very few scattered trees adjacent to top bank located at the upper end of the project area. These trees consist of American elm, black willow, red oak, sycamore, sweetgum and river birch. Ditchbank vegetation is limited primarily to johnson grass and various sedge species.

Fauna in the proposed project area of Harrington Creek is limited due to increased urbanization of the area. Species raccoons, opossum, mice, rats,

skunks and various birds are common to the area. Fishery resources are very limited resulting from the polluted and intermittent condition of the stream.

Previous Research

No previous archeological work has been conducted in the direct project area. Work in the general area was conducted by Gerald Smith, various staff members of Chucalissa Museum and Memphis State Museum Anthropology Department between 1968 and 1971. Other work was conducted in the general Memphis area by Gilbert Commonwealth in 1981 and Coastal Environmental, Inc., in 1987.

Results of the Records Search

As the area to be surveyed was so small, a record search beyond office files was not conducted. Office files and records did not indicate that any cultural resources were in the project area.

Survey Methodology and Results

The Harrington Creek project area is approximately 4.8 acres in size. The length is approximately 600 feet (180 meters). Width varies with a maximum of 100 feet (30 meters). A 1,450 foot long roadway (442 meters) was also checked. Portions of the road are located on an existing levee. Shovel test units (approximately 30 x 30 x 30 cms) were dug every 30 meters where the surface visibility was bad. No artifacts or cultural indicators were found. Soil profiles of the shovel cuts showed a very thin humic zone, no plow zone and a homogenous reddish-brown soil under the humic layer. This indicates that the entire area was probably levelled, or cleared with heavy equipment when the electrical towers were put in place.

Recommendations

Based on an infield cultural resources survey and a background records search, no evidence of prehistoric, historic or architectural resources exist within the direct impact zones of the projects. It is recommended that repairs within the projects rights-of-way proceed as planned.

The survey methodology used does not eliminate the possibility of encountering deeply buried sites. Therefore, any site encountered during construction will be protected from further damage by stopping construction until its significance can be determined by the Environmental Analysis Branch, Memphis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in conjunction with the Tennessee Office of the Tennessee Historic Preservation Program.

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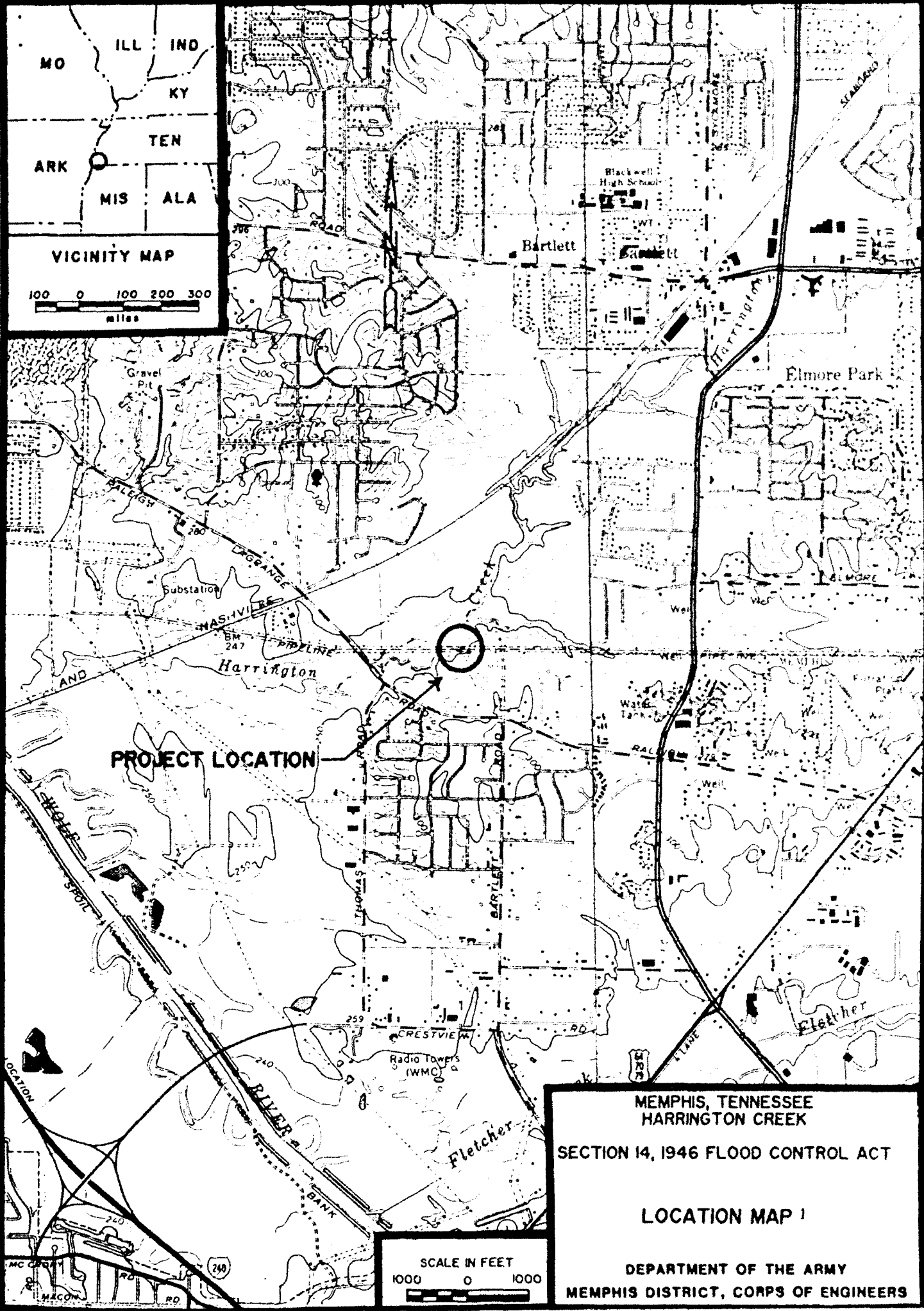
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HARRINGTON CREEK
MAP 2

